

DRINK

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Notes from the APOCRYPHA (1611 KJV)

M. Love

**What Does
the
Apocryphal
Book of
1st Esdras
Say About
Alcohol?**





FIRST,
WHAT IS
ALCOHOL?

**Generally speaking,
any ethanol-
containing
intoxicating
beverage is
considered to be
alcohol. Beer, wine,
liquor, wine coolers,
liqueur, and also
moonshine are the
basics of alcohol.**

**Any alcohol has the
potential to be
dangerous.**

**“The Strength of Wine”
(The Power of Alcohol)**

1 ESDRAS

3:17-24

17

...Then began the first,
who had spoken of the
strength of wine;

18

And he said thus, O ye
men, how exceeding
strong is wine! it
causeth all men to err
that drink it:

19

It maketh the mind of
the king and of the

**fatherless child to be
all one; of the
bondman and of the
freeman, of the poor
man and of the rich:**

20

**It turneth also every
thought into jollity and
mirth, so that a man
remembereth neither
sorrow nor debt:**

21

And it maketh every

**heart rich, so that a
man remembereth
neither king nor
governor; and it
maketh to speak all
things by talents:**

22

**And when they are in
their cups, they forget
their love both to
friends and brethren,
and a little after draw
out swords:**

23

**But when they are
from the wine, they
remember not what
they have done.**

24

**O ye men, is not wine
the strongest, that
enforceth to do thus?
And when he had so
spoken, he held his
peace.**

**So,
according to the
1611's first book
of Esdras,
what is wrong
with the
consumption
of alcohol?**

- It leads people who drink it to make mistakes and to do wrong things.

(Verse 18)

it causeth all men to
err that drink it

Throughout the
years, there have
been reports of

**various workers
who were
responsible for
providing public
transportation
having caused
serious accidents
and deaths simply
because they were
“under the
influence of
alcohol”.**

These accidents included auto and airplane crashes, sunken ships, and even bus collisions. Drivers of these, and other vehicles, made serious mistakes because their vision, reaction times, and

**judgment was
impaired. The
alcohol caused
them to err—to do
the wrong thing.
In some cases, it
cost their lives or
the lives of their
passengers or of
others who
happened to be
nearby.**

- **It breaks down distinctions in status and role.**

(Verse 19)

It maketh the mind of the king and of the fatherless child to be all one; of the bondman and of the freeman, of the poor man and of the rich:

It may seem to be

**a good thing that
everyone could be
equal. The
fatherless child
could be as
important as the
king and the
enslaved or poor
could be equal in
care and
treatment to the
free or rich**

**person. Were that
so, alcohol would
be a very helpful
beverage. Of
course it's not and
that's not what the
verse is saying. To
the contrary, it's
saying that "wine"
(any alcohol)
causes people who
SHOULD be in**

**positions of high
character,
wisdom, honor,
and authority to
behave as if they
were of a very low
position. Likewise,
the drink makes
those who actually
are in low
situations, such as
poverty, to**

**become arrogant
and to think too
highly of
themselves. It's
similar to saying,
“That court judge
is crawling all over
the ground,
laughing and
vomiting while
that beggar is
demanding**

**expensive jewelry,
high-fashioned
clothes, and the
most costly
meals!” Positions
and situations
become clouded as
a result of
drinking alcohol.
Sometimes, even a
small amount
changes behavior.**

- It makes everything seem so insignificant, so funny, and so deliriously fun that drinkers forget sorrows, debts, and respect. Plus, they'll reveal things for money.

(Verses 20, 21)

It turneth also every thought into jollity and

**mirth, so that a man
remembereth neither
sorrow nor debt: And it
maketh every heart rich,
so that a man
remembereth neither king
nor governor; and it
maketh to speak all things
by talents:**

**Alcohol causes people
to act so foolishly.
Often, everything
becomes a joke and**

nothing is serious or important to them at the time. They could be losing their jobs or homes and, rather than praying, thinking, or planning their next move, they allow booze to overshadow their realities. Also, with lowered inhibitions,

**they'll run their
mouths and reveal
information,
according to this
passage, for pay.
Actually, they'll do
the same free too. Not
all, but many
drinkers become as
chatter boxes and
wanna'-be
philosophers.**

- **It destroys family and friend relationships and prompts fights. Then it causes amnesia of all its destruction.**

(Verses 22, 23)

And when they are in their cups, they forget their love both to friends and brethren, and a little after draw out swords: But when they are from the

**wine, they remember not
what they have done.**

**Mess! It creates the
kind of messes which
are so messy that
relationships are
permanently
destroyed. When the
chaos is all over, the
drinker often doesn't
even remember what
happened.**

Additional Issues with Alcohol:

- **Alcohol causes poor health and even death of users and victims of users.**
- **Alcoholic beverages cost money which could used to help rather than to hurt.**

- **"Drinking" often becomes a difficult addiction to manage.**

- **Alcohol is strongly encouraged in certain neighborhoods, but the revenue from it very rarely goes into the same communities.**



For Thought:

1

**Have you known
anyone whose health
suffered as a result of
drinking alcohol?**

2

**Have you ever found
yourself drinking,
becoming sick from it
(a condition known as
a hangover) and
promising (yourself,
friends, or even God)
that you would not**

**ever drink again, but
did drink at some
later time?**

3

**What are biblical
passages sometimes
used to justify
consumption of
alcohol?**

For The Record:

Drinking alcohol, as with most anything else, is a personal choice for adults.

The presented scriptural passage provides reasons to consider one's perspective on drinking.